

Governments, and the Central Government merely acts in an advisory capacity, thereby making a coordinated policy almost impossible. There can be little doubt that a very great effort will be required if these entirely preventable diseases are to be brought under control. The great difficulty in the past has been the lack of suitably trained medical officers and medical orderlies. During World War II large numbers of Indian officers and orderlies were trained in the Army under ideal conditions, in modern treatment centres with adequate supplies of equipment and using the most modern forms of chemotherapy. For the most part, their services will not be required in the peace-time Army and they will be available for service in a post-war medical programme for the civil population of India. It will be a tragedy and an inestimable loss to India if they are not usefully employed. In the past remuneration has been pitifully small; this must be altered in the future.

Various estimates have been made of the incidence of venereal disease in the country generally, but none are in any way accurate. That the incidence is great can hardly be doubted. In one Province it was suggested that legislation should be introduced to make treatment compulsory, but it is my decided opinion that this would be a very serious mistake. It appears to be of little use to introduce legislation into a country which has almost no treatment facilities and in which the population is entirely ignorant of the nature of venereal diseases. It would appear, rather, to be necessary first of all to open free treatment centres on a large scale. In the first instance these should be in the larger cities, particularly the seaports; later on provision could be made for treatment in the smaller towns and villages, probably by means of travelling clinics. Secondly, it is essential to attempt to educate the people. This could be done by means of films and of radio talks and by eliciting the help of the newspapers. The uneducated Indian is much more likely to be influenced by films, which can be quite simple and must move at a slow pace; consequently this should be the method of approach.

The time is opportune and the results will pay handsome profits in the improved health and wellbeing of the population.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

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American Journal of Syphilis

Boletín medico-social

British Medical Journal

Crónica médica

Journal of the Cape Town Post-Graduate Medical Association

Journal of Experimental Medicine

Journal of Venereal Disease Information

Medical Times, New York

Medicina española

New England Journal of Medicine

Revista de la Asociacion médica argentina

Revista del Instituto de Salubridad y Enfermedades tropicales

Revista médica de Chile

Revista médica de Yucatan

South African Journal of Medical Sciences

Urologic and Cutaneous Review